

REMARKS

Applicant has reviewed and considered the office action mailed on February 28, 2003, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 8 and 11-17 are currently amended, claims 1-7 and 9-10 are canceled, claims 18-20 were previously withdrawn; and as a result, claims 8 and 11-17 are now pending in the application.

Affirmation of Election

Applicant's representative acknowledges election of claims 1-17 in a telephone interview initiated by the Examiner on July 5, 2003, in which applicant elected Group I, claims 1-17.

Applicant acknowledges that the office action indicates that claims 18-20 were withdrawn. However, applicant reserves the right to file continuations or divisions having claims directed to the non-elected inventions.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-6, 9, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Purr, Akanuma et al. or Randall et al. Claims 1-6, 9, and 10 are canceled, so the rejections are moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8 and 11-17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 8 and 11-17 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, so claims 8 and 11-17 should be allowable.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone applicant's attorney at 612-371-2109 to facilitate prosecution of the application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Representatives,

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Date

July 28, 2003

By

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 28th day of July, 2003.

PATRICIA A. HULTMAN

Name

Patricia A. Hultman

Signature